GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3084
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
IMPORT OF FRUITS
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of various fruits imported during the last three years;

(b) the countries from which these fruits were imported;

(c) whether there is a steady increase in import of these fruits which are being imported;

(d) if so, whether there is stiff resistance from fruit growers of the country for import of these fruits; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (e) : Fresh fruits are classified under chapter 8 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export & Import items 1997-2002. Import restrictions on all the items including fresh fruits are being removed since 1991 in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the Country`s commitment to multilateral trading regime. As a result of these fresh fruits like apple, mangoes, lemon, watermelon, pears, cherries, pomegranates, strawberries are allowed to be imported freely, while import of fresh grapes and oranges is restricted. The import figures of these fruits in last three years is as follows: Qty. in tons.

ITC(HS) Code	Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (till Dec.99)
08081000	Apple	-	3	1586
08045002	Mangoes	9	-	Negligible
08053000	Lemon	-	-	25
08071100	Watermelon	-	-	65
08082000	Pears	-	15	340
08092000	Cherries	-	-	10
08101000	Strawberries	-	-	18
08109001	Pomegranates	5	-	575

These imports are mainly from countries like USA, UAE, China, Chile, France, Germany, Newzealand, South Africa, Nepal Afghanistan and Pakistan etc. Representations have been received from some fruit growers and also the Governments of Himachal Pradesh and J. & K. regarding the likely adverse impact of imports on domestic producers. However, the present level of imports except perhaps in the case of apple is not likely to cause any serious detriment or injury to domestic producers. The import duty on apple has already been increased from 35% to 50%.